July 27, 1998

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Bruce Perens
P.O. Box 70152
Pt. Richmond CA 948078-0152
bruce@pixar.com
510-620-3502

Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Honorable Michael K. Powell
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

Honorable Gloria Tristani
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

WT 98-143

Re: ARRL's letter of July 22, Regarding License Restructuring in the Amateur Radio Service

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

I am a Radio Amateur, and hold callsign K6BP.

There can be no logical reason for a Morse code telegraphy examination to remain a criterion for Amateur radio licensing. I understand that for the U.S. to be in compliance with the International Telecommunications Union treaty paragraph S25.5, radio Amateurs must demonstrate some competence in Morse code telegraphy, but this should be held to a practical minimum speed of 5 words per minute until the treaty can be changed.

ARRL's proposal is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. It proposes a 12 words per minute Morse code examination for the class "B" and "A" licenses. This should be reduced to 5 words per minute.

I request that FCC and the Department of State work to eliminate paragraph S25.5 from the treaty at the next meeting of the International Telecommunications Union. Once S25.5 has been struck, Morse code examinations should be eliminated entirely.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Perens

cc: Daniel Phythyon, Esquire
D'Wana Terry, Esquire
Mr. William Cross

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